



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

Speech by U.S. Ambassador Dawn Liberi on the Occasion of the Inauguration of USAID's Assistance to Burundi in Support of Youth Mobilization for Peaceful Elections in 2015.

July 5, 2013

It is my great pleasure to be with you today for the official launch of United States Government assistance to Burundi in support of youth mobilization for peaceful elections in 2015.

The goal of this assistance is to strengthen the ability of young people in Burundi to resist unhelpful pressures, and even violence, in the period leading up to the 2015 elections. To achieve this goal, the United States Government proposes three objectives:

1. Encourage constructive dialogue and understanding between political and civil society youth leaders from different backgrounds and affiliations;
2. Promote the participation of youth in problem-solving and community development;
3. Strengthen the ability of youth to reconcile differences and build consensus in their communities.

This assistance, to which the United States Government will provide one million and two hundred thousand dollars, will be implemented over a period of two years by Search for Common Ground (SFCG), a respected American non-governmental organization with proven expertise and a solid track record in conflict prevention, mitigation and peace building.

SFCG, which has been present in Burundi since 1995, will work with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and other government organizations to reach out to youth in many different areas of society.

As an example of its initiatives, SFCG will propose the introduction of a Pledge for Peace Charter and a Code of Conduct to which the country's youth organizations and individuals would pledge to reflect their firm commitment to their civic duties and to non-violence in the 2015 elections process.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Burundi and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture for their initiative to establish a National Youth Council. Through our partner SFCG, we will work with this National Youth Council and youth associations to promote dialogue and understanding.

To the Government of Burundi and to the youth of this country, thank you very much for allowing us to share this occasion with you.

Murakoze Cane!

